

April 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Martin J. Gruenberg,

I am writing in regards to the possible emergence of the bank of Wal-Mart. I would like to urge you and your fellow board of directors to attend hearings about the formation of this controversial financial institution. Please listen to the comments and concerns of the witnesses. This is too critical of a decision to miss. Here are some of my concerns:

Loss of Community Banks: A Wal-Mart bank would pose a serious threat to drive community banks out of business, like they have done to local grocery stores, drug stores, hardware stores, etc.

Undermine Local Economies: A Wal-Mart bank could take capital out of local communities and could refuse to make loans to local businesses.

Dangerous Concentration of Power: A bank owned by the largest corporation in the world would create a dangerous concentration of commercial and financial power.

Wal-Mart's Rocky History: Wal-Mart has a history of skirting, bending and even breaking the law for the sake of their bottom line. We should not trust them with an institution that is so important to the vitality and stability of our communities.

Wal-Mart's size: Wal-Mart is quick to remind critics that another retailer, Target Stores, also holds a banking charter. A Wal-Mart bank would pose risk to the FDIC and American fiscal security due to its sheer size. Target's FY 2006 revenues were \$52 billion, only one-sixth the size of Wal-Mart's. A Wal-Mart ILC would dwarf those managed by any of the other companies that currently hold charters.

Thank you for reading my email. I hope you can understand and advocate for my perspective.

Jeremy T Friedman